

January 20, 2005 Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXVI, No. 5

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5...go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy. South...Turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, January 20th..7:00 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:00 p.m.)
WHY	A short business meeting..auction (one item lot per member please..door prize..Show & Tell..Member's trade and sell tables (free to members, please cover during business meeting.) <u>Program:</u> Bring your interesting photographica Christmas gifts for an expanded Show & Tell. Also, <u>Bill Kimber</u> will give a fire update complete with pictures by <u>Stuart Curry</u> .

WELCOME TO 2005:

Here we go into 2005. The past year was an interesting one with needed changes being made in our Club. Dues were raised to \$20.00 per year...our first raise in 25 years. We also agreed to cut our Club and Show expenses. This was all done to help insure that P.S.P.C.S. could continue as a active and solvnet Club.

Mike Immel took over management of our Club web page and has been working to make it more user friendly and informative. It is a work in progress but many thanks go to Mike for taking on the task.

Our 2004 Show Experience Weekend was a success with a most interesting speaking and well attended Show with 16 well done displays and over 200 tables of "goodies". However, the number of sellers and buyers was down a bit from past years and our 2005 Show Committee is working hard to reverse that disturbing trend.

Our membership continues to age and to pass away. This includes member Dave Chining (Earthquake) whose large gentle self passed away this Fall. He, and his firm control of our Show Seller's off-loading area, will be much missed. However, Gary Sivertsen is continuing to recover from his hip replacement operation on the 27th and should be out there sweet talking little old ladies most any day now.

As we begin 2005 we must take into account the major differences Internet selling and digital photography have made on the collecting of vintage and antique photographica. It is much rarer now to find the little antique store, Mall Seller or even garage sale owner who has not peeked on the internet and discovered that someone(s) somewhere think that that photgraphic item is worth a small fortune. i.e. there are few bargains out there anymore. And, with the vast majority of users wanting to shoot with digital equipment (it is getting to be better quality with lower prices) selling "user" film equipment is becoming harder and harder. The good news is: it appears that film equipment is going to become almost instantly available and collectible. The bad news is: very few people seem to "give a damn" and the "user" buyers are becoming fewer and fewer.

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****BACKSIDE INFORMATION****

The Special December Christmas meeting, with 24 members and guests in attendance, began with a very nice spread of food and sparkling cider that seemed to please the members who, it soon became clear, had not seen really tasty food in some time and "dug in with gusto".

After the food was devoured, and while members belched and waited for Santa to arrive from his gig in front of Walmart, a business meeting was held. The Minutes of the November meeting were approved as read. Treasurer, Shirley, reported our bank account was still safe in the bank.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business

NEW BUSINESS:

The Show committee reported that the post card database is all up to date thanks to Darrel. There are 4,200 addresses to which to mail Show notice cards. Also, the 2005 Show button design has been approved and Walter Hughson will have them done shortly. The needed Show printing is being printed and Show Brochures will be included in the January Bellows.

PROGRAM:

As if on cue Santa arrived, at the end of the Show report, with a hearty MERRY CHRISTMAS and our present exchange began. Santa started off the proceedings by giving Bill Kimber several choice photographica presents to help him start the process of rebuilding his collection which had been largely destroyed by fire on November 18th. There were many nice presents under the tree and several exchanges were made as members picked according to their choosen number. Overall it was clear to all that the quality of the gifts was the best it had ever been with most everone pleased when the exchange ended and Santa shouldered his bag and slipped away into the night. Thank you Santa for another most enjoyable gift exchange.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. for one last run at the food nummies and Seasons Wishes of good cheer exchanged among everone.

THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY QUESTION:

Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Western Photographic Historical Society:

What Kodak Brownie camera was made for only one even and never appeared in Kodak Catalogues?



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046, billkimber@webtv.net

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is www.pspcs.org

Dues are \$20.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916, ssparrow@eburg.com P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our 4th Saturday in April yearly show.

PRESIDENT: DARREL WOMACK (206) 244-6831 DARRELCAM@COMCAST.NET

What will happen to P.S.P.C.S. as our membership ages if new younger collectors don't appear; and digital and the internet change how we operate? Only time will tell but Bill Kimber's "fire sale" of the bulk of his collection at McKeown's Price Guide prices may be the best thing that ever happened to that aging collector.

So, fellow members (of both sexes), lets pay our 2005 dues. keep "treasurer hunting" and informing the general public about, "The Cameras That Photographed Our Past" and have fun doing it. See you at the meeting. Ed.

PEN PAL WANTED:

The Club has received a card from a Mr. David Sharbroush..715 8th Street...Ocean City, N.J. 08226..who would like to correspond with other camera collectors. He says his main interest is cameras made between 1920 and 1960. If you have a similar interest drop him a note and see whats up.

The following is from the March 2004 Western Photographic Historical Society newsletter and is used with thanks. Ed.

Platinum Printing

by Ria Ryne

Its atomic number is 78, its atomic weight is 244.0642, it is nestled on the periodic table of elements between iridium and gold; and it can be found in fine jewelry, fine spark plugs and fine photographic prints. And the mystery guest is - Platinum.

Considered by many to be among the most beautiful photographic printing processes, platinum has a long-scale tonality similar to albumen but with softer contrast. Prints can vary from cool to neutral black to warm brown depending on the chemistry and paper used. Like most photographic processes, and indeed most scientific advances of any kind, the platinum printing process evolved over a period of time due to the efforts of many different people.

In 1832 Sir John Herschel, at a meeting of the British Association of Oxford, announced his discovery that certain platinum compounds in the presence of organic compounds could be reduced by the action of light. About 12 years later Robert Hunt, who was to become one of the founders of the Royal Photographic Society, published a book *Research on Light*, describing his experiments with platinum.

It was in 1873 that William Willis, the son of an English engraver, first perfected and patented a platinum process titled, perhaps a bit optimistically, "Perfection in the Photo-Mechanical Process". Additional patents followed in 1878 and 1880. It is this work that forms the basis of many of the platinum formulas in use today. Willis formed the Platinotype Co. in 1879 and began marketing papers the next year. He sold licenses to professional, as well as amateur photographers at 5 shillings each, and then sold them the materials.

Giuseppe Pizzighelli and Arther von Hubl, officers in the Austrian army continued to refine the platinum process and devised methods for photographers who wished to prepare

their own papers. They created an emulsion incorporating sodium ferric oxalate into the sensitizer, humidifying the paper and eliminating the need for potassium oxalate liquid developer. They published their findings in *Die Platinotype* in 1882 much to the dismay of the Platinotype Co., which tried to discredit their formulas. The work was translated into English and published in the *Photographic Journal* in 1883

which contributed to the popularity of the process. The work was translated into English and published in *The Photographic Journal* in 1883 which contributed to the popularity of the process.

In the late 1800 s and early 1900 s commercially produced platinum papers became widely available in the Europe and the U.S. These papers were highly regarded for the beauty of their tonalities as well as their permanence, (Platinum is immune to almost all chemical action). Primarily due to the influence of the "Pictorialist" movement esthetic platinum papers remained popular until the 1920 s.

As smaller cameras began to become available and photographers, photojournalists and commercial photographers began social documentation, the general use of platinum declined. Kodak discontinued to production of platinum papers in 1916 and the Platinotype Co. eventually followed suit in the late 1930 s. Despite this, there remains today photographers who continue to print with platinum and are rewarded with unmatched tonal scale and extraordinary longevity.

Sources: *The book of Alternative Photographic Processes* by Christopher James, *Coming into Focus* Edited by John Barnier, *The Keepers of Light* by William Crawford.

A Christmas Story

by Ria Ryne

Kodak Brownie Starmite II, Two-tone Grey Plastic. Uses 127 roll film and AG-1 Flashbulbs. Two aperture settings available: "Flash" and "Daylight." Manufactured from 1962-1967. Value \$12 in 1962.

Fade to black as we take a trip with the ghost of Christmas past.

It is December 25, 1963, and we are in the living room of a rented house on the south side of a town in middle Georgia. It's not a large town, but most of the streets are paved and most everyone has electricity and indoor plumbing. The family whole home we are visiting, my family, has lived here for five months, having moved from a very small town in North Carolina so the father can find work. It's been a difficult transition, moving from a place where everybody knows everybody to a place where I don't know anybody. Little did I know as I lay in bed that Christmas morning awaiting sunrise, that there was a gift awaiting me that would change my life.

Finally, the sun rises and my brothers, my sister and I do too. We finally drag our parents out of bed. They act so sleepy you'd think they'd been up all night wrapping presents and filling stockings instead of Santa Claus doing all the work. At last the family makes its way downstairs to the living room where my brother, as befits the oldest child, plugs in the Christmas tree lights. OK-PRESENTS! I had a system back then: Scan stocking stuffers first, work my way up to the main gift. The main gift that year was medium-sized maybe twice the volume of a cigar box. I removed the wrapping paper - the box was marked "Kodak." I opened it and there was magic inside.

Yeah, it looked like a camera, but when you think about it, it's really magic. You point this plastic thing at something, click the shutter, send the film away for processing and a week (or so) later you have photographs.

Owning my very own camera, I felt very much like a grown-up that day, a feeling I have experienced only intermittently since. I took pictures of the Christmas tree (very impressive in black and white), I took pictures of the dogs, I took pictures of the family grouped picturesquely, or so I thought, around the swing set in the back yard.

I discovered, as time went on that if doubtful about whether a photo would work, shoot it anyway, sometimes you surprise yourself. I discovered how different a world of colors looks in black and white and shades of grey. Most importantly, I discovered a passion for capturing images on film (yes, film!) that continues to this day.

Many cameras have passed through my hands in the last forty-one years. One Christmas I received a Kodak Instamatic, many years later, my first 35mm SLR. I have

shot medium format and I have used large format and I enjoy all of it. It all started with an inexpensive plastic Brownie and that's worth a whole lot more than \$10. I don't care what *McKeown's* says. Merry Christmas.

(Editors note: Ria Ryne, a WPHS board member, is employed at Photographic Works, a photo/digital lab and uses many cameras in her hobby and part time business of shooting weddings and other subjects for her good friends.)

New 3-D Museum

CSC (Cascade Stereoscopic Club) has their new museum up and running called "3-D Center of Art and Photography." On your next trip north to Portland, Oregon visit their location at 1928 NW Lovejoy, Portland, OR 97209 (503) 227-6667 or visit their web site first www.3dcenter.us and the club site www.cascade3d.org.

This Non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization was host to the National Stereoscopic convention in July of 2004 and had the museum open for the event. Their hours are 1-5 pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It's the ONLY Gallery and Museum in the U.S. dedicated solely to antique and contemporary 3-D images, equipment, paraphernalia, and books. Step into the history of 3 dimensional photography, enjoy the featured artist of the month, watch 3-D slide shows and view 3-D images at the computer station and on the web. For those who want more, the Center has a public reference library and a gift shop.

Portland is also the original home of the View-Master stereo system which recently celebrated their 65th anniversary. William Gruber, a piano tuner and amateur photographer created the first View-Master in 1939 and it debuted at the New York World's Fair and they are still for sale at various tourist attractions and special occasion celebrations.

So

What Kodak Brownie camera was made for only one event and never appeared in Kodak Catalogues?

Answer: The Baby Brownie New York World's Fair Model box camera made in 1939-1940. It was similar to other Baby Brownies except for the New York World's Fair faceplate. The camera was made of Bakelite and used 127 film. This special edition model may sell for \$200 to \$300.



Photo from *McKeown's*